

AGENDA ITEM #8

July 12, 2002

To: Delta Protection Commission

From: Margit Aramburu, Executive Director

Subject: Proposed Memorandum of Understanding regarding Long Term
Management of Staten Island, San Joaquin County
(For Commission Review and Discussion)

Background:

At the November 15, 2001 meeting, Mike Eaton, Director, Cosumnes and Delta Projects for The Nature Conservancy, presented the conditions of the grant of CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Funds and Flood Control Funds for acquisition of Staten Island. The legal documents had been signed and TNC had received the grant and purchased Staten Island in fee title.

The Commission expressed concerns about oversight of the implementation of the proposed joint wildlife-friendly agriculture and flood control project proposed for Staten Island. The Commission directed staff to pursue either the Commission becoming a signatory to the existing legal documents, or preparation of a separate document that would define an oversight role for the Delta Protection Commission for the proposed project.

Draft Agreement:

The recommended direction is the preparation of a new, short agreement between the Department of Water Resources, the agency that holds the flood easement and is project manager for the North Delta Project, and the Delta Protection Commission.

The draft agreement is attached. Based on Commission discussion, the draft memorandum should be discussed and then revised and returned to the Commission for final review and approval at the September 2002 meeting.